

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 EB-07 INT-05 COME-00 ERDA-05

CU-02 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 161110Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5105

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 BRASILIA 3311

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH; BR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MINISTER UEKI

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 2716; (B) STATE 74923

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 12, MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY UEKI DISCUSSED HIS INTERESTS AND PREFERENCES FOR HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT. IN ESSENCE, UEKI IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW NUCLEAR BILATERAL AGREEMENT BUT THIS IS NOT A PRIORITY ITEM AND HAS NOT, APPARENTLY, BEEN A PRINCIPAL MOTIVE AND OBJECTIVE OF HIS VISIT. UEKI'S PRINCIPAL INTERESTS CENTER ON A) COOPERATION IN THE APPLICATION OF EXISTING ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY FOR AN OIL SHALE PLANT; AND B) FINANCING FOR HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS. EMBASSY NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES THAT USG SHOULD DISCUSS WITH UEKI, THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE US COULD SUPPLY ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL AND SEEK TO DRAW UEKI INTO A DISCUSSION OF BROADER NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON APRIL 12, AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF MINES

AND ENERGY SHIGEAKI UEKI TO DISCUSS OBJECTIVES AND ARRANGEMENTS OF UEKI'S VISIT. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY UEKI IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION.

3. DATES AND COMPOSITION OF PARTY: UEKI CONFIRMED THE DATES GIVEN BY THE BRAZILIAN CHARGE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS (STATE 076433). UEKI SAID HIS PARTY WOULD CONSIST OF SEVEN OFFICIALS PLUS POSSIBLY SOME STAFF. HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS OF HIS MINISTRY; THE OTHER FOUR MEMBERS WOULD BE SENIOR CORPORATE EXECUTIVES DRAWN FROM THE NUCLEAR, PETROLEUM, ELECTRICAL, AND MINING SECTORS (I.E., NUCLEBRAS, PETROBRAS, ELECTROBRAS, AND CVRD). HE AND THE TWO OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD CONSTITUTE THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION. HE WILL COMMUNICATE NAMES OF THE SIX OFFICIALS AT A LATER DATE.

4. THE RELATIONSHIP TO LAST YEAR'S INVITATION TO UEKI AND NOGUEIRA BATISTA (PLUS ONE OTHER OFFICIAL OF UEKI'S CHOICE) WAS BRIEFLY TOUCHED UPON. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE NATURE OF THE VISIT HAD CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR. UEKI DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF ON WHETHER NOGUEIRA BATISTA WOULD BE GOING BUT, IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT, ALLOWED THAT THE OFFICIAL PARTY WOULD STILL CONSIST OF THREE.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSION, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER UEKI STILL EXPECTS THE USG TO BEAR THE COST OF THE OFFICIAL VISITORS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS OPEN (STATE 9365). GIVEN THE DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE USG SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BEAR THESE COSTS BUT IF THE BRAZILIAN SIDE RAISES THE ISSUE, WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT REFUSE. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE, DOES NOT PLAN TO RAISE THIS QUESTION BUT WILL LEAVE IT TO THE BRAZILIAN SIDE TO INDICATE AN INTEREST IN FUNDING.

6. BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT: IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, UEKI NOTED THAT THE SITUATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACING BRAZIL TODAY WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHEN IT FIRST REQUESTED US NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES. THERE WERE NOW FOUR SUPPLIERS -- EURODIF, URENCO, AND THE SOVIET UNION, IN ADDITION TO THE US -- AND, UEKI INDICATED, BRAZIL WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT OBTAINING SUPPLIES. BRAZIL HAD RECEIVED PROPOSALS FROM OTHERS BUT WAS STILL STUDYING THEM (AT ONE POINT HE REFERRED TO NEGOTIATIONS). HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT ADVANTAGE SHOULD BE

TAKEN OF HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON TO HOLD CONVERSATIONS
ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF A REVISED AGREEMENT.

7. COMMENT: UEKI'S ATTITUDE, IN OFFERING THESE COMMENTS,
WAS FRIENDLY BUT WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM. CHARACTERISTICALLY,
HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER ON HIS OWN, IN THE DISCUSSION OF
THE AGENDA, THAT THE BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT OR
BROADER ISSUES OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION WERE TOPICS
OF INTEREST. THE MINISTER' ASSENT THAT THESE TOPICS
SHOULD BE TAKEN UP APPEARED TO BE MORE A COURTESY THAN
AN INDICATION OF GENUINE INTEREST. UEKI'S REACTION
WAS SIMILAR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S WHEN THE AMBASSADOR
SUGGESTED THE INCLUSION OF THE SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA
FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. THE EMBASSY, THEREFORE
CONCLUDES THAT THE OPENING OF DISCUSSIONS ON A NEW
BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT IS NOT A BURNING QUESTION
FOR UEKI. EMBASSY, NEVERTHELESS, BELIEVES THAT THIS
ITEM SHOULD BE ON THE AGENDA AND THAT THE SECRETARY OR,
IN HIS ABSENCE, OTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS SHOULD
CLEARLY SET OUT, IN A SYMPATHETIC MANNER, UNDER WHAT
CONDITIONS THE US WOULD BE ABLE AND WILLING TO FURNISH
NUCLEAR FUEL. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT A DISCUSSION OF
BROADER NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES SHOULD BE RETAINED
ON THE PROGRAM AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO RESUME A
DIALOGUE WITH THE GOB ON THIS SUBJECT.

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P R 161110Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5106

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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8. AGENDA FOR VISIT: UEKI SAID HE WAS TOTALLY OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS. HE LISTED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS PRIORITY INTERESTS:

A. US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AGREEMENT. UEKI EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN CONCLUDING THE AGREEMENT DURING HIS VISIT. THE AMBASSADOR SAID WE WOULD TRY BUT HAD SOME DOUBTS WHETHER THE AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY THE PROVISIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, CAN BE READIED IN TIME. WE WERE EXPECTING SUGGESTIONS FOR CERTAIN REVISIONS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. UEKI CONCURRED THAT IF THE FULL TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT IS NOT READY, EITHER AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF A MORE GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES COULD BE INITIALED. HIS PREFERENCE, HOWEVER, CLEARLY WOULD BE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT.

B. COOPERATION IN OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT. UEKI SAID THAT THE US AND BRAZIL WERE THE TWO PRINCIPAL NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH LARGE SHALE DEPOSITS. HE THOUGH THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD TRY TO FIND WAYS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND COOPERATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION
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OF PLANTS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WAS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM FOR HIM AND THAT HIS INTEREST WENT BEYOND R&D TO COOPERATION IN THE APPLICATION OF THE AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTS. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS, HE SAID, HE ASKED THAT MOREIRA, THE ADVANCE MAN FROM PETROBRAS, WHO HAD BEEN WORKING ON SHALE FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS, EXTEND HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON.

C. FINANCING FOR MINING, INDUSTRIAL, AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS. UEKI INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DISCUSSING FINANCING POSSIBILITIES. HE PLANS TO MEET WITH THE WORLD BANK AND IDB OFFICIALS AND WISHES TO HOLD SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS AT THE EXIM BANK. AT EXIM HE WILL WISH TO TALK PARTICULARLY ABOUT FINANCING FOR HYDROELECTIC POWER PROJECTS. (COMMENT: THE NOTES PREPARED BY UEKI FOR THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN FEBRUARY ALSO INDICATED AN INTEREST IN EXIM BANK FINANCING FOR CARAJAS.) UEKI ALSO WONDERED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXIM QUOTE BUYER'S CREDITS UNQUOTE FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN LIEU OF THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECT FINANCING. HE SUGGESTED THAT EXIM BE PREPARED TO STUDY PARTICULAR INDUSTRY

SECTORS -- HE MENTIONED PETROCHEMICALS AND PETROLEUM-- IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH THE US WOULD BE A SUITABLE SUPPLIER OF EQUIPMENT, AND ESTABLISH CREDIT LINES, PERHAPS INITIALLY MODEST (\$5 - 10 MILLION) TO ENABLE US SUPPLIERS TO COMPETE. UEKI THOUGHT THAT PRESENT LENDING PRACTICES PLACED US EQUIPMENT AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE IN RELATION TO EUROPEAN COMPETITION. HE CITED SEVERAL CASES WHERE PETROBRAS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED US EQUIPMENT BUT OPTED FOR EUROPEAN BECAUSE OF THE FASTER, MORE FLEXIBLE "BUYER CREDIT" ARRANGEMENTS THE EUROPEANS OFFERED.

D. NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY R&D: UEKI NOTED THAT BRAZILIAN INTEREST WAS MORE IN APPLICATION OF USABLE TECHNOLOGY THAN IN RESEARCH AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL FRONTIERS. BRAZIL DID, HOWEVER, HAVE A SMALL RESEARCH PROGRAM IN NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEGINNING AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THESE AREAS. HE ALSO AFFIRMED AN INTEREST IN COAL GASIFICATION AND METHANOL, ITEMS MENTIONED BY HIM DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

E. CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR REGULATORY AND SAFETY MATTERS. UEKI INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN HAVING THE PENDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED AT AN EARLY DATE. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND UEKI'S MINISTRY IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FROM THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.) HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER TO BE PURSUED AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL AND THAT HERVASIO CARVALHO (CNEN PRESIDENT) HAD BEEN HANDLING IT. HIS COMMENTS, HOWEVER, LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED IN WASHINGTON IF IT HAD NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED BEFORE HIS VISIT (BRASILIA 2979).

9. SUB-GROUP ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY: UEKI, IN ESSENCE, SAID THAT HE WAS DEFERRING ON THIS ITEM TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, A GENERAL PERSONAL DISPOSITION TO SEE THE GROUP ESTABLISHED DURING HIS VISIT. THE AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY MENTIONED TO SILVEIRA OUR READINESS TO DISCUSS TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUB-GROUP AND SILVEIRA SAID THAT HE WISHED TO HANDLE THE NEGOTIATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OUT OF HIS OWN OFFICE. AMBASSADOR THEREFORE DID NOT PRESS UEKI ON THE ISSUE OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE ENERGY SUB-GROUP DURING THE VISIT. UEKI GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE ON THE

BRAZILIAN SIDE.

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P R 161110Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5107

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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10 COMMENT: EMBASSY CONTINUES TO CONSIDER AN EARLY MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING MOMENTUM. WE THEREFORE PLAN TO RAISE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THE POSSIBILITY FOR SCHEDULING A FIRST MEETING DURING UEKI'S VISIT. THE GOB IS JUST BEGINNING TO ORGANIZE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SUB-GROUP AND AN EARLY MEETING WOULD BE A USEFUL CATALYST. ALSO, UEKI MAY BE UNDERESTIMATING THE DIFFICULTIES OF IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC PROJECTS ON WHICH THE TWO SIDES CAN USEFULLY COOPERATE, FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL PROGRAMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT DION HAS PROMISED US AN INVENTORY OF BRAZILIAN PROGRAMS AND CAPABILITIES ON ENERGY R&D, BUT NO ONE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY SEEMS TO KNOW OF THIS REQUEST. THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP (STATE 087572) WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN FORCING THE BRAZILIAN SIDE TO BECOME MORE SPECIFIC.

11. CARACAS: UEKI INDICATING AN UNDERSTANDING THAT

THE USG WAS NOT TAKING A POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THE
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DISPUTE BETWEEN US STEEL AND CVRD, SAID HE WISHED TO
CLEAR UP THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN US STEEL AND CVRD
SO THAT HE COULD APPROACH POTENTIAL LENDERS ABOUT
FINANCING WITH A "CLEAN DEAL." HE SAID THAT HE HAD
SENT EUCLIDES TRICHES, A SENIOR DIRECTOR OF THE CVRD,
TO PITTSBURGH TO TRY TO COME TO A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING
WITH USS.

12. COMMENTS: UEKI SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT
USG STANCE ON THE ISSUES BETWEEN USS AND CVRD. THUS,
WHILE HE VERY LIKELY WILL REFER TO THE DISPUTE DURING
THE WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS, HE WOULD NOT DO SO IN THE
EXPECTATION THAT THE USG WOULD INTERVENE WITH US STEEL
ON BEHALF OF THE BRAZILIAN POSITION. EMBASSY BELIEVES,
HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONTACT US STEEL
TO GET AN UP-TO-DATE ACCOUNT OF THE US STEEL
HEADQUARTERS VIEW (SEPTTEL).

13. VISIT TO PRIVATE COMPANY AND US GOVERNMENT INSTAL-
LATIONS: UEKI DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVI-
TATION FROM WESTINGHOUSE TO VISIT FACILITIES OF SPECIFIC
INTEREST TO BRAZIL AND WAS ACCEPTING THE INVITATION.
HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT WITH
GENERAL ATOMIC. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION
ABOUT A VISIT TO US GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS, HE
WAS COURTEOUSLY RECEPTIVE BUT LUKEWARM.

14. POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR
ENERGY AND WORLD ORDER: THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT
AMSPEC RICHARD N. GARDNER HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION
TO MINISTER UEKI TO BE A KEYNOTE SPEAKER ON THE OPENING
DAY OF THE CONFERENCE AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
ON THE MORNING OF MAY 13. (AT GARDNER'S REQUEST,
THE EMBASSY HAD DELIVERED A PERSONAL LETTER FROM GARDNER
TO UEKI (WHO HAD BEEN OUT OF TOWN WHEN GARDNER WAS
IN BRASILIA) EXTENDING SUCH AN INVITATION TO THE
MINISTRY'S SECRETARY GENERAL ON MARCH 29.) THE AMBASSADOR
STRESSED THAT THIS WAS NOT A USG-SPONSORED OR
ENDORSED EVENT ALTHOUGH US OFFICIALS USUALLY ATTEND
THESE ANNUAL CONFERENCES ON GLOBAL ISSUES, ORGANIZED BY
PROFESSOR GARDNER, IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY. UEKI, WHO
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APPARENTLY HAD NOT YET SEEN GARDNER'S LETTER, INDICATED HE WOULD CONSIDER THIS INVITATION, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING SOME OTHER BRAZILIANS TO THE CONFERENCE. FROM HIS REMARKS, IT SEEMED CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE FORESAW SOME DIFFICULTY IN ADVANCING HIS DEPARTURE TO THE UNITED STATES.

15. COMMENTS: WE HAVE SOME DOUBT THAT UEKI WILL BE ABLE TO ADVANCE HIS DEPARTURE BY AN ADDITIONAL 3 TO 4 DAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. ALSO, WE BELIEVE THAT UEKI WILL PROBABLY WISH TO DE-EMPHASIZE THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF HIS VISIT. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS ITEM AT THIS TIME OTHER THAN TO ADVISE GARDNER OF THE STATE OF PLAY.

16. ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT: IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS THE APPROPRIATE POINT OF COORDINATION FOR THE VISIT BUT ALSO THAT A MEMBER OF UEKI'S IMMEDIATE STAFF AND THE EMBASSY WOULD STAY IN TOUCH ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT REGULARLY ON THESE MEETINGS AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED ON THE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT AS THEY DEVELOP.
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